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Vacation classes for teachers in the mufassal training schools.

* 1729 Q.—Mr. A. B. SHETTY: With reference to my question No. 449 answered on 27th August 1927, will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have considered the question of holding vacation classes for teachers in the mufassal training schools; and

(b) what they propose to do in the matter?

A.—(a) & (b) The Government have asked the Director of Public Instruction to consider the question and submit a report to Government. His report is awaited.

Local Boards

Nomination of Christians to represent depressed classes in local boards.

* 1730 Q.—Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state with reference to the answer to question No. 736 answered on 20th October 1927, regarding nomination of Christians to represent depressed classes in local boards—

(a) what the replies to (a) and (b) of that question are; and

(b) whether Christians come under 'depressed classes' or 'minorities'?

A.—(a) The President, District Board, Kistna, has reported that no Adi-Andhra has been appointed as a member of the Gudivada Union Board. He has been asked to instruct the President of the Taluk Board, Gudivada, to appoint a suitable Adi-Andhra in the next vacancy on the Union Board.

(b) A Christian is not necessarily 'depressed' by reason of his religion. As a community Christians may be said to form a minority community.

Construction of the new building of the Madura District Board office.

* 1731 Q.—The RAJA OF RAMNAD: With reference to my question No. 754 answered on 31st March 1927, regarding the construction of the new building of the Madura District Board office and to the answer given to the supplementary questions put thereon by Mr. L. K. Tulasiram, will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government called for the information; if so, to what effect;

(b) whether they will kindly place the report received from the president, district board, concerned on the table;

(c) if the report had been called for and received, whether the Government have decided upon the change of site of the building to a more suitable place;

(d) when the work was stopped last and what is the intention of the District Board, Madura, in the matter;

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(*e*) whether it is intended to proceed with the building from where it was left or abandon it altogether ;

(*f*) whether the Government will make a full statement regarding the construction of this building, showing in how many places it had cracked, what the progress is that has been made and what is proposed to be done further with its construction ;

(*g*) with reference to the answer to clauses (*c*) and (*d*) of the question, viz., that the payment of the honorarium to the Superintending Engineer to the extent of Rs. 2,012-3-9 for preparing the design of the building was permissible under rule 1-A (12) of Schedule V of the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920, what are the reasons which made the Government consider that such a charge is necessary or incidental to the district board administration as required under the said rule ; and

(*h*) whether they will state if any other district board had at any time incurred such an expenditure, and if so, which board had done so, in what year, in what manner and to what extent ?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The reports [a] received from the President, District Board, Madura, are placed on the table.

(*c*) No. The Government do not consider that a change in the site of the building is practicable or necessary.

(*d*) & (*e*) The work stopped in the first week of November 1926. The President, District Board, reports that it is intended to complete the building as it at present stands.

(*f*) The cracks in the building are six in number and they have not widened at all since they appeared. The President, District Board, also reports that proposals for future construction are in correspondence with the Superintending Engineer and the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department. The work was finished up to the top level of basement by the end of September 1926.

(*g*) The Madura District Board desired to have the benefit of the Superintending Engineer's assistance and sanctioned the payment of an honorarium; the Government permitted the Superintending Engineer to receive it at their discretion.

(*h*) No ; so far as the Government are aware.

The RAJA OF RAMNAD :—" With reference to the answer to clause (*b*) I find that it is only the enclosures that have been placed on the table and not the report. May I ask the hon. the Minister whether he will place the report on the table ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" I thought it was the report that was placed on the table ; I shall place it on the table."

The RAJA OF RAMNAD :—" It is stated that the cracks are six in number and that they have not widened at all since they appeared. May I know whether the cracks did not widen because there was no construction of superstructure and because the work has been left there ? "

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[a] Printed as Appendix II on pages 150–153 infra.

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" That is a matter of imagination."

The RAJA OF RAMNAD :—" It is a fact."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member will do well to table a resolution and argue out the matter. When a resolution is tabled it can be decided whether it is a matter of fact or of imagination."

The RAJA OF RAMNAD :—" I shall consider the suggestion.

" With reference to the answer to clause (h) it is stated that there has been no precedent for honorarium being paid to Superintending Engineers in the matter of preparing plans and estimates. May I know what made the Government sanction this extraordinary expenditure when, as a matter of fact under the rules the Superintending Engineer scrutinizes the plans and estimates costing over a certain amount with any honorarium ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" I want notice, Sir."

Rao Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR :—" May I know what percentage does the amount of Rs. 2,000 and odd come to with regard to the estimate of the cost of the building ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" Notice, Sir."

Rao Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR :—" May I ask whether it exceeds or is below the percentage fixed under centage charges ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" I want notice."

Rao Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR :—" It is stated in the appendix that there was no further development in the cracks. May I know whether, since November last, there has been any development in the construction of the building ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" I want notice, Sir."

Institution of a Rural Development Fund.

* 1732 Q.—Mr. A. B. SHETTY : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether the Government have now come to any definite conclusion regarding the institution of a Rural Development Fund ?

A.—No. The matter is under further consideration.

Municipal Councils

Nominations to the Municipal Councils of Chidambaram, Cuddalore, etc.

* 1733 Q.—Swami A. S. SAHAJANANDAM : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are aware that the period of nomination of the nominated Municipal Councillors of Chidambaram, Cuddalore and Villupuram of South Arcot district, and Gudiyattam of Vellore district has expired ; and

(b) whether those seats have been filled up by nominations ?